

BOOTH COUNTY KICKER.

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Copyright.
During the last two sessions of congress the question of copyright has come up in all its old complexities and with some new difficulties. The attempt to secure longer copyright for the authors of books has been practically confused with the question of musical copyright in relation to phonograph records and the rolls used in mechanical piano-players. Under both these practical questions, which must be decided separately, lies the fundamental theory of copyright. Copyright, like trade-mark or patent right, is an artificial monopoly, determined not by "natural" justice, but by arbitrary statute. The man who makes a machine or an attractive name for soap or a novel asks the public to give him exclusive use of his idea, in order that he may profit. The public grants him this exclusive use, not for his sake, but for its own sake. The idea, says the Youth's Companion, is that such special protection encourages men to produce ideas. The words of the American constitution express clearly the attitude of government. That is, the public, toward the individual. Congress is empowered "to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writings and discoveries." In this the emphasis is on the welfare of the public, the progress of the art and science, and not on the well-being of the individual. The individual may ask the public to secure to himself and his descendants the profit of an idea for a hundred years. Society replies, in effect, "We do not care about you or your family. How can we get the most out of you? How can we coax and encourage you to produce your best, and at the same time have use of your ideas with the least possible restriction?" To determine where to draw the line, how long copyright shall endure, how long a patent shall live, is a question of psychology. The effort of law should be to cut the term down as low as reasonable generosity and the facts of human nature will permit.

Gambling in Cuba.
American influence has brought about some important changes in Cuban customs and notably in the abolition of the bull ring and the cock pit, which used to be the chief Sunday attractions of the populace. Not a few of the better class of Havana dwellers the same fate for Jai Alai and would rejoice to see the Fronton closed forever. High and low wage immorality on this game and many stories of ruined reputations and wrecked businesses are connected with it. Every race has its prevailing vice and its comparative freedom from others. The Cubans are incurable gamblers, but drunkenness is virtually unknown among them. Writes C. H. Forbes-Lindsay in the World To-Day. Both sexes in Havana spend a great deal of time in the numerous open air cafes, but they drink for the most part, non-alcoholic, fruit beverages, of which there are an extensive variety peculiar to the country.

The attractiveness of Cuba.
With the recent extension of railroad facilities, tourists in general have begun to extend their travel beyond the neighborhood of Havana, and they are learning that the provinces offer even greater attractions than the capital. All the principal cities are picturesque and interesting, and each has distinctly individual characteristics. The hotel accommodations are seldom as good as they should be, but the traveler will not suffer actual discomfort anywhere, says C. H. Forbes-Lindsay in the World To-Day. In every place one encounters Americans, with an occasional Spaniard, Canadian or Britisher, who are spying out this land of promise and quietly picking up desirable tracts of it.

Prohibition surely seems to be marching on. A conference has been held in London, participated in by men of both hemispheres, and including a good representation from America, the object of which is to inaugurate a world-wide movement, supported by a confederation composed of workers in the prohibition cause in all parts of the globe. The progress made in the United States of late has been remarkable, but the success attained in many parts of the old world, where the drinking habit is far more of an established institution, is still more extraordinary.

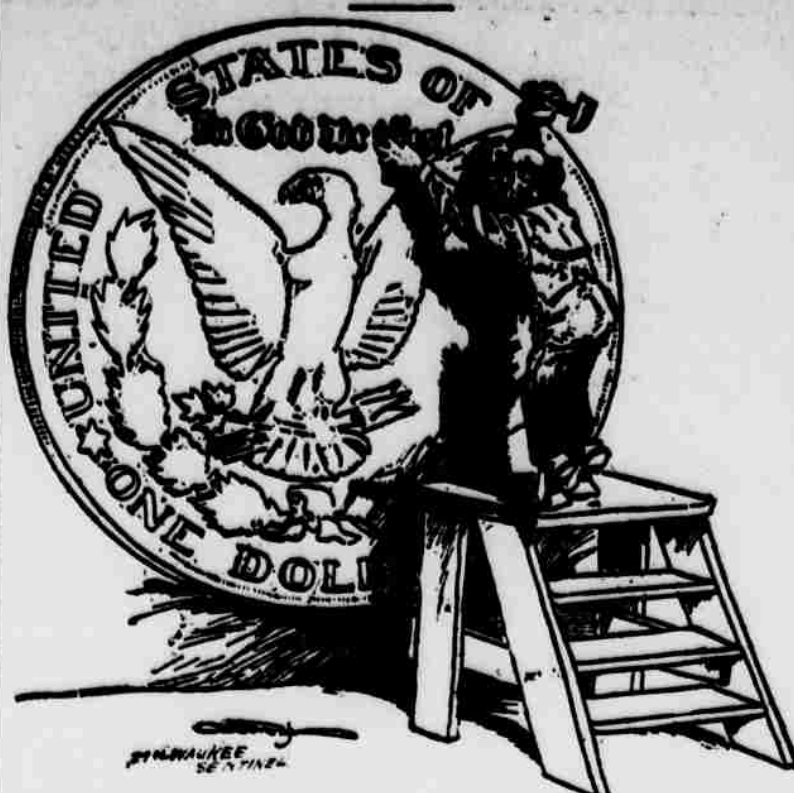
Manila is the best-governed city in the Orient. We understand all about the theory of government in this country, but sometimes we hate to apply it on ourselves. It is well that we bought a bunch of foreigners on whom to experiment and thus prove our capacity.

There appears to be a difference of opinion as to whether or not crepe de chine is silk. Why not call on the saleswoman unannounced and ask her what she sells for?

That Battle Creek window-washer who tumbled through the skylight of a hospital operating room showed such wisdom in picking out a place to fall that his example is commended to all contemplating any such little stunt.

It is odd that Baltimore should be talking about holding a world's fair in 1914 to observe the anniversary of the publication of "The Star Spangled Banner," considering how near Baltimore is to Jamestown.

PUTTING IT BACK.



A NEW EXPLOSIVE

ACTION OF CONGRESS MAY DISCLOSE INGREDIENTS.

THREE YEARS OF EXPERIMENTING

Bursting Charge of Projectiles Leads the World, and May Revolutionize Warfare.

Washington, D. C.—The ordnance department of the army is having trouble with congress in attempting to keep secret ingredients of what it asserts is the first successful bursting charge for projectiles that has been discovered anywhere in the world.

After three years' experiment and exhaustive tests, the ordnance experts have evolved "explosive D," which, it is claimed, is proof from explosion when the projectile leaves the gun, and which remains unexploded until the projectile pierces the armor or object at which it is directed. It then explodes within the projectile and inflicts damage on the object fired at. Japan had her "shimoshu" during the Russo-Japanese war, but it proved a failure in that the material was not able to withstand the shock given to the projectile when it left the gun, or when it struck the object aimed at. As far as is known, the United States is ahead of the world as regards this discovery, and having conceived the destruction-dealing substance which practically all nations have been endeavoring to find for years, the ordnance officials are naturally anxious to have its ingredients remain a secret.

Congress, up to the present, has succeeded in putting a damper on the secrecy idea by voting the ingredients of the new explosive must be purchased in the open market through advertisement, just as all other supplies of the army are acquired.

Two Wounded in Pistol Duel.
Caruthersville, Mo.—Edward Langdon and Albert Little, both of Caruthersville, fought a pistol duel in a saloon near the depot here Monday night. The shooting was the result of a quarrel, and both principals were probably fatally wounded. They were taken to a hospital at Memphis, where physicians declare there is little hope for the recovery of either. Langdon was formerly night watchman at Caruthersville.

Trapped Negro Uses Gun.
Clarksburg, W. Va.—Frank Johnson, a negro, accused of murdering Mrs. Carl Martin, a negro, and who is held at bay in a barn near here by a posse of deputy sheriffs, shot and wounded three of his pursuers early Wednesday. The wounded are: H. Cook, James Wamsley and John Matheny.

Bankers to Hunt Bears.
Marksville, La.—A party of Kansas bankers from Neodesha, headed by A. M. Sharpe and A. M. Hill, arrived here for one month's hunt at Black River Lakes and on the north side of Red River, where deer and bears are plentiful.

To Arrest All Truants.
Atlantic City—Police have decided to arrest every truant from local schools, following the discovery that lads who "bug" school have been engaged in the petty thefts which have worried the department.

Employing 1,000. Resume.
Reading, Pa.—The local plant of the American Iron and Steel Co. resumed after a two months' idleness. It employs nearly 1,000 hands.

Buys Church at Auction.
New York—John Krause, head gardener on William K. Vanderbilt's country place, Idle Hour, bought a church at public auction for \$580 and for \$50 more he got the fixtures. Krause will use it as a home.

Gould Line Stations Closed.
Topeka, Kas.—The Missouri Pacific issued an order closing twenty telegraph stations on the Omaha division, four in Kansas and the remainder in Nebraska. Eighteen are day and two night stations.

Geo. W. Williams Dead.
Little Rock, Ark.—George W. Williams, 61 years old, a lawyer, known throughout the state, member of the state legislature in 1899, died of erysipelas, from which he had been a sufferer for several weeks.

Halt on Building Out of Plumb.
Roverford, Pa.—Because Robert O. Ehler erected a building that was not plumb on the building line, he was ordered to stop work on the building by President of Town Council Harry Rayson.

PRIEST IS THREATENED.

St. Louis Pastor Receives Letter in Which Death is Threatened.

St. Louis—Rev. Father Timothy Dempsey, pastor of St. Patrick's church and proprietor of two hotels for homeless men, received in his mail Wednesday a "black hand" letter demanding \$500, to be left on Eads Bridge at midnight next Friday. He is threatened with death if he fails to pay the money, or if he reports the demand to the police, and is promised 10 years "protection" if he yields the money.

Father Dempsey is not inclined to take the threats seriously.

GEORGIANS LYNCH TWO.

Two Other Negroes Held on Suspicion and Armed Men Menace Them.

Hawkinsville, Ga.—Two negroes, suspected of being the murderers of Warren and Mrs. Hart, an aged couple, Wednesday morning, have been lynched. Two other negroes are held on suspicion. Large crowds of men, heavily armed, are on the ground, and further violence is imminent.

The motive for the murder of the old people is supposed to have been robbery, as \$1,500 which the assassins overlooked has been found hidden in the house.

Senator Proctor Dead.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont, who died Wednesday afternoon, was the wealthiest man in the upper branch of congress, according to a statement of one of the multimillionaire members. Senator Proctor was born in Proctorsville, Vt. in 1831, and had been a legislator and governor and lieutenant-governor of his state. He served in the civil war, was President Harrison's secretary of war, and had been in the senate since 1891, when he left the cabinet to succeed George F. Edmunds.

Officer Kills Preacher.

Guthrie, Okla.—Deputy Sheriff Ed Hull was arrested Thursday, charged with murder. Wednesday he killed a supposed homicidal maniac, said to have resisted arrest. The victim was identified Thursday as Marion Morgan, a preacher, who was trying to sell his horse when approached by the officer. Hull will claim self-defense.

Wellington Gordon Dies.

Columbia, Mo.—Wellington Gordon, for more than fifty years a practicing attorney of Columbia, died at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. He was 73 years old and a member of the pioneer Gordon family. His father was John H. Gordon, one of Missouri's famous lawyers in the early days, and a contemporary of Judges Scott and Leonard of the early Missouri supreme court.

Ask Authority to Extradite Roy.

Washington, D. C.—Application was made to the state department Tuesday for the necessary authority to extradite from France Paul E. Roy, charged with responsibility for the death of George A. Carkins in New Hampshire. The action on the application was not announced.

Friendless at 107.

Warren, Mass.—John H. Spencer, 107 years old, destitute and without friends, has been taken to the Warren poorhouse.

Pastor Killed by Fall.

Butler, Pa.—Rev. J. G. Butz, aged 72 years, died at Zellenopolis, from the effects of a fall, his skull having been fractured.

Girl Quits Sick Bed to Wed.

Marion, Ohio—Cupid scored a triumph here when Miss Mary Katherine Johnson, aged 25, her wedding twice postponed by grip, rose from her bed and was married by Rev. George M. Rourke to Charles S. Iden of McKees Rocks, Pa.

Objects to the Name.

Volin, S. D.—The parents of a new born daughter having named her Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, the neighbors are indignant and threaten violence unless the child's name is changed.

School Census Shows 478,847.

Guthrie, Okla.—Complete figures received by State Superintendent Carson from every county in the state show the entire school population of Oklahoma to be 478,847. Oklahoma county leads in its school population, with 18,154.

Two Men Swept Overboard.

Philadelphia—During heavy weather at sea two of the crew of the Danish steamship Scallia, which arrived here from Carthage, Spain, were swept overboard on Feb. 21 and lost.

NEWS OF CONGRESS

DOINGS OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES AT WASHINGTON.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

Concise Report of Measures Introduced and What Action is Taken on Them

To Regulate Asiatic Immigration.

Washington—The Hayes bill to regulate the coming into and the residence within the United States of Asiatics was considered Tuesday by a sub-committee of the house committee on foreign affairs. Representative McKinley of California appeared in support of the measure and urged chiefly as against the immigration of Japanese and other Asiatics the charges that they work for wages which disrupt conditions of the American workmen and that, racially, they are non-amalgamative. No decision was arrived at.

Bill to Remove Duty on Pulp.

Washington—Representative Stevens of Minnesota introduced a bill to remove the duty on pulp wood and white paper.

Democrats Favor Aldrich Bill.

Washington—A careful canvass of the senate to ascertain the sentiment in regard to the Aldrich currency bill indicates that when the bill comes to a vote there will be more democratic senators recorded for it than republican senators. Since the speech by Senator Smith of Michigan in opposition to the railroad bond feature of the measure, it has been stated persistently that there is a republican defection that endangers the passage of the bill.

Legislative Procedure Criticized.

Washington—The system of legislative procedure in the house of representatives was severely criticized in that chamber Tuesday by Mr. Murdock of Kansas. He declared it to be all wrong and asserted that under it the vitality of initiative in the individual in his representative capacity was being sapped.

"He has his share of the responsibility in a majority vote on non-partisan legislation," he asserted, "but he has little or no voice in determining the question upon which he shall vote except in purely partisan matters."

More Time to File Survey.

Washington—The bill granting additional time to the Alaska Pacific Railway and Terminal Co. to file completed surveys by road sections was ordered favorably reported without amendment Tuesday by the house committee on territories.

Senate Wants Information.

Washington—The senate Tuesday passed the resolution offered by Mr. Tillman calling on the attorney general for information in his possession concerning court proceedings in 1905 in the Indian territory affecting the Cherokee and Chickasaw Indian tribes.

Calls for Postoffice Probe.

Washington—The startling charge that the railroads of the country carrying mails had robbed the people out of \$70,000,000 was made in the house by Mr. Lloyd of Missouri. He declared that the new system of weighing mails was an admission of the postmaster general that the weighing in the past 27 years had been fraudulent. He called for an investigation of the post-office department, and Mr. Vanger of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee to control the expenses of that department, promised that an inquiry would be conducted. Others who spoke were Messrs. Moon of Tennessee, Goebel of Ohio, Briggs of Georgia, Murdock of Kansas and Smith of California.

Pass 320-Acre Homestead Bill.

Washington—The senate Monday passed a bill authorizing the entry under the homestead laws of 320 acres of land instead of 160, as at present, when the land is arid and incapable of irrigation.

Indian Fraud Probe.

Washington—Senator Tillman's resolution calling on the secretary of the interior for information concerning the charges of fraud in the Choctaw and Chickasaw litigations, in which the court was charged with receiving a bribe from the lawyers' commission, was adopted by the senate Monday in modified form.

Consider P. O. Appropriation.

Washington—Consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was begun in the house of representatives Tuesday. As presented, the bill carried a total appropriation of \$220,767,712, which is \$9,675,624 less than the sum which Mr. Overstreet of Indiana explained the provisions of the measure, the main feature of which has already been published.

To Try Alie in March.

Denver—Giuseppe Alie, slayer of Father Leo Heinrichs, pleaded not guilty to the charge of murder when arraigned in the criminal court. Judge Greeley Whitmore set his trial for Monday, March 9.

Robbed on Way to Bank.

Muskogee, Okla.—F. E. Pitts and Will Harris were held up near Kiowa and robbed of \$379 in money and nearly \$200 in checks while they were on their way to Kiowa to place the money in the bank.

Diamonds Found in Rage.

Kokomo, Ind.—Arthur Beard of the Kokomo paper mill found two diamonds in some old clothes that had been sold for junk. Beard exhibited the gems at a local jeweler's and was paid \$200 for them.

Three Killed in Battle.

Evelyn, Ky.—Three men were killed and a fourth mortally wounded in a battle with revolvers following a quarrel in the lumber camp of Conington & Williams Bros. on Rose Creek, near here.

JAP WARSHIPS MOVE ON CHINA

DANGER OF ARMED CLASH OVER SEIZURE OF STEAMER IS GROWING HOURLY.

USE OF FORCE THREATENED

Mikado's Hostile Step Regarded as a Mere Pretext for Bringing on a Collision—China is Not Prepared.

Peking—With the Japanese southern squadron on its way to Canton, and the danger of an armed clash with the Mikado growing hourly more imminent, China is walking between national pride and the fear of a war which might mean disintegration of the Empire.

While Japan has been assuring the Occident that she has no thought of fighting over the seizure of the steamer Tatsu Maru, she has made it clear to Peking, according to information from high official circles, that force will be used if the Chinese government persists in defying or disregarding the Tokyo foreign office demands.

The word "war" has not appeared in the correspondence, but China cannot figure that "force" means anything else unless, indeed, she is to submit tamely to the recovery by a Japanese squadron of a vessel which the Chinese officials seized for bringing aid, almost openly, to malcontents in arms against the government.

China does not want war at present. Her military experts are building up the army as rapidly as possible, but they realize that they are still far outclassed by the Japanese. Their navy amounts practically to nothing.

So far as the Tatsu is concerned, the government might yield were it not convinced that Japan is making an issue of the matter as a mere pretext. If the Tatsu is surrendered, the Emperor's advisers are satisfied another cause for trouble will be found—probably over territorial rivalries—and that hostilities will only be postponed, is questioned whether, under the circumstances, anything is to be gained by compliance in the present case.

DETROIT BANKER KILLS SELF.

E. T. Hance Said to Have Worried Over Personal Financial Affairs.

Detroit, Mich.—Elwood T. Hance, first vice-president of the Union Trust company of Detroit, and former postmaster, shot and killed himself early Friday in his home. His friends said that he had been greatly depressed over his own financial affairs for some time.

Mr. Hance's health had not been good, and it is said that this aggravated the worry.

Mr. Hance was born in Wilmington, Del., 56 years ago, and came to Detroit in 1878. He was admitted to the bar and in 1889 was appointed postmaster. When the Union Trust Company was organized he was made secretary and later vice-president.

Fire in New York School.

New York—Fire broke out on the top floor of public school No. 165, at One Hundred and Nineteenth street and Amsterdam avenue, at 11 o'clock Friday. On hearing the fire alarm bells in their classrooms, 1,000 children were formed in line and marched to the street. The fire was confined to the top story of the building, used as an assembly hall.

Garry Succeeds Latimer.

Columbia, S. C.—Hon. Frank B. Garry of Abbeville, was elected Friday on the fifteenth ballot by the general assembly in joint session, to fill the unexpired term of United States Senator A. C. Latimer, deceased.

Dies on a Bed of Roses.

Lexington, Ky.—Joseph Llewellyn, a young florist, killed himself on a bed of roses here Thursday night. He carefully placed a quantity of the flowers in his bed, retired and then committed suicide in the midst of them.

Trolley Cars Collide; 21 Persons Hurt.

Dunkirk, N. Y.—A head-on collision between a traction car running at full speed and a southbound car occurred early Friday morning near here, seriously injuring the motorman and 20 passengers, nine of whom are in the hospital.

Fire Sweeping Jap City.

Tokio—A tremendous fire is raging at Nodasov, near here. Four hundred buildings have been destroyed, with \$2,500,000 loss.

Children Cause Tragedy.

Foyil, Okla.—After a quarrel with his second wife over the children of both by previous marriages, Emmet Beck, a farmer, shot and killed the woman, her son and himself. Before shooting himself he endeavored to force his young stepdaughter to take poison, but she refused.

President's Yacht Aground.

Washington, D. C.—The president's yacht, Mayflower, which left Washington Thursday for the South, went aground Friday morning near Norfolk, according to a dispatch received by the navy department.

Killed on Way to Church.

St. George, Ga.—While on his way to church at Baxter, Fla., Dan Crow, accompanied by his nephew and two women, was shot and killed by James Petty. It is said the killing resulted from trouble started several weeks ago.

Wants the Birds Fed.

Belle Center, O.—James Williams, mayor, issued a proclamation to the people of this city, urging them to feed the birds. A heavy sleet had buried all their food sources under the ice.

Happenings in Missouri.

Can't Touch Wife's Property.

A new question in this state was decided by the supreme court in an opinion by Judge Graves, in case of Caroline Perry vs. Callie Evans et al. Little Maud Evans was murdered by her husband George Evans. She was his second wife and by the marriage there were no children. Evans had two children by a former marriage, the defendants, Callie and Zora Evans. George Evans after killing his wife, killed himself, and his two children claimed that, under the statute, they were entitled to one-half of the property of Little Maud Evans, as against the mother and sisters of the deceased wife. The case involved the construction of the statute first enacted in 1895, by which the widow of a wife who dies childless is given one-half of the wife's property. "This case is without the statute," said Judge Graves. "Widower, as there used, means one who has been reduced to that condition by the ordinary vicissitudes of life, and not one who by felonious act, has himself created that condition." In conclusion the court held that George Evans having murdered his wife could not inherit from her and for that reason his children had no interest in the property.

A St. Louis Court Invalid.

The supreme court knocked out the court of general sessions in St. Louis city, which was created by an act of the last legislature. The court of general sessions was established as a help for the criminal court with only power to assess fines, issue habeas corpus writs and impose prison sentences when the defendants pleaded guilty, but had no power to hear evidence and determine the guilt or innocence of a defendant who went to trial. The supreme court says that there can be no court without the power to hear and determine cases from the evidence submitted and a tribunal constituted as this so-called court of general sessions is a mockery and has no standing in the constitution.

A Tramp's Bad Luck.

It isn't often a tramp has bad luck at a back door in Harrisonville, but one struck the wrong place a few days ago, according to the Cass County Democrat. "In response to his knock there was a promiscuous slamming around of cooking utensils in the kitchen and he rapped the third time before the door was opened. The woman of the house was laid up with the grip and it was her uncheerful husband attempting to get breakfast for himself who greeted the weary Willie with a bellow like a bull. 'Breakfast!' was the man of the household yelled; 'you get out of here! I'm having a hell of a time getting my own breakfast.'"

"Wets" Demand a Recount.

Suit has been brought at Columbia in the circuit court asking that the ballots in the local option election held in Columbia February 5, be recounted. The petition alleges that the result will be materially changed by the throwing out of illegal votes. The dry majority was 42. The charges of irregularity, preferred and repeated, voting non-residents, voting of minors, electioneering of dry judges, preparing ballots outside the election building and unworn judges serving.

The Shortest Will.

According to a local paper this is the shortest will ever filed in St. Clair county: In the name of God, amen. I, John T. Lumpkin of Iuka Springs, St. Clair county, Mo., make this my last will, hereby revoking and making void all former wills and after paying my just debts and funeral charges I bequeath and devise as follows: I give and bequeath unto my wife, Alice M. Lumpkin, all my wealth, real estate and personal property.

A Wolf Invaded a Town.

A half famished wolf came out of the swamp near Chaffee and ran through the streets. It bit three persons before it was killed. Allen Stokes, a railroad employee, was so severely bitten on the leg that he immediately started for St. Louis for treatment. He feared hydrophobia. John Lewis and a small negro boy also were bitten. The wolf was pursued to the swamp and shot.

Farmer Found Dead in Bed.

Isaac Barkley, a well-known farmer, living near Palmyra, was found dead in his bed recently. He asked his wife for a drink of water, and an hour later she was horrified to find him dead. Excepting a cold, he had been in apparent good health.

Refused \$3,000 for Hog; It Dies.

A valuable hog, known as "Star Masterpiece" and for which the owners, Still & Laughlin, paid \$5,500, died at Kirksville recently. At a recent Berkshire sale on their Kinlock farms the owners steadily refused an insistent offer of \$3,000 for the hog.

A Man Thief.

There is one heart-broken housewife in Carterville. Being unable to get anyone else to do the family washing, she has put in a whole day making the accumulated garments spotless. It was a hard day's work but the result gave her pardonable pride when at last she collected from the lines a big basketful of immaculate clothes. Then she was called into the house, and when she came out, she found her clothes and basket, were there? Some sneak thief had taken them over the hills and far away.

Magnanimous Thieves, These.

Chief Frana of the St. Joseph police department received an unsigned letter in the mail containing checks and drafts amounting to \$5,208, which were stolen recently from Levi Scheminsky, a rag picker. The thieves failed to return \$500 in cash taken from Scheminsky at the same time.

Smallpox Steps Court Session.

Circuit court was convened at Ozark recently and adjourned until the first Monday in June on account of an epidemic of smallpox.

Man Asks \$15,000 for Eye.

Walter P. Farrer has brought suit against the Frisco Railroad in the Howell County Circuit Court for \$15,000 damages for the loss of his right eye. The accident occurred at Sapulpa, Ok., November 2.

Makes Use of Vagrants.

Marshal Hogz of Moberly has the right idea, says the Monitor. He now turns vagrants over to the street commissioner to clean streets or work in a new city park. The men have to work ten days each and no loafing or shirking of duties will be permitted under penalty of cutting out their meals.

How Farming Pays.

The 1907 corn crop from one farm near Mexico sold for \$29,500. Who said hard times?

A Child Drank Poison.

Martin, the seven-year-old son of M. S. Hunt, a farmer living two and one-half miles southwest of Ionia, found a bottle of carbolic acid at his home. He drank the contents, not knowing it was poison, and died before a physician could be called.

Don't Want Big Feet.

A Central Missouri editor saw the soil in his vicinity is so rich the birds will not walk over newly plowed ground for fear their feet will grow.